i. Boy boarder at Re. 1—4—0 per head per month.

ii. Girl boarder at Rs. 2—8—0 per head per month.

iii. Rent grant of Rs. 5 per month.

The amount of grant paid to the Sadanam in 1116 is Rs. 758—12—0.

(*d*) The strength at the end of Thulam is as follows.—

Nambudiri "Girils" Hostel, Trichur	58
English N. B. V. Sadanam, Panjal	42

NELLIAMPATHIES GHAT ROAD—DAMAGE TO

130. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to answer.—

(*a*) when the Ghat Road to the Nelliampathies went out of use;

(*b*) what exactly were the damages caused to the road;

(*c*) when did the Engineers first inspect the road;

(*d*) when was the estimate prepared;

(*e*) when were the tenders called for for the work;

(*f*) was there a request from the Nelliampathy Planters that the work may be given to three different persons;

(*g*) whether the contract has been given;

(*h*) if so, to how many contractors was it given;

(*i*) who is the contractor;

(*j*) has work been begun; if so, when;

(*k*) when is the work expected to be completed;

(*l*) what is the area under cultivation in the Nelliampathies;

(*m*) what is the population in the Nelliampathies;

(*n*) Is there toll-gate on the road to the Nelliampathies;

(*o*) if so, at which mile;

(*p*) how far from the toll gate up the hills is the road usable for motor traffic;

(*q*) what is the toll usually levied there;

(*r*) was it being levied after the Ghat Road was damaged;

(*s*) what is the loss to Government from loss of revenue from the tolls;

(*t*) in the case of repairs to damages caused to roads by cyclone, etc., will Government adopt speedier methods for repairing them;

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(*u*) what is the distance to the southern end of the Oriental Estates in the Nelliampathies from Nemmara;

(*v*) what is the number of convictions under the Cattle Trespass Act in the years 1116 and 1117;

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) On 13th Edavam, 1116.

(*b*) Collapse of retaining walls at steep places, earthslips throughout the length of the road, slips of huge granite boulders all along the road and falling trees and debris across the road.

(*c*) The road was inspected by the Overseer after the cyclone on 17th Edavam 1116 and by the Assistant Engineer on 6th Mithunam 1116.

(*d*) The estimates for temporary repairs were prepared in the first week of Mithunam 1116 and for permanent repairs in the first week of Chingam 1117.

(*e*) Tenders for permanent repairs were called for on 15th Kanni 1117.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) One.

(*i*) Messrs. P. K. Syed Amian Sahib & Co.

(*j*) Yes; by the 20th Thulam 1117.

(*k*) By 20th Makaram 1117.

(*l*) The total area of the several Estates in the Nelliampathies is 4905·49 acres. The area under plantation is 1484·75 acres. These figures do not include the extent under plantations and occupations of the Estates under the control of the Forest Department.

(*m*) 2,300 persons.

(*n*) Yes.

(*o*) At the fifth mile stone.

(*p*) Motor traffic is possible now up to 7/6 and also from 11th mile stone to Nadugani.

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(*q*) The toll levied there is according to the rates prescribed in the sale Notification of tolls published by the Diwan Peishkar under date 12th Edavam 1114, corresponding to 26th May 1939 (Paragraph 16 of the Notification and the note thereunder, *i.e.*, at double the usual rates as a special case.

(*r*) Yes.

(*s*) The exact loss of revenue cannot be definitely ascertained now.

(*t*) Such damages are being repaired expeditiously.

(*u*) About 22 miles.

(*v*) There was one conviction in 1116 and there was no conviction in 1117, under the Cattle Trespass Act.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* When the road went out of use, did you notice that it was in such a condition that people could not even walk up the road?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* For the few days following the cyclone, it was very difficult to go along the road from the alignment of the road. But speedy work was done. Works costing about Rs. 2,300 were done there immediately to enable people to walk. Permanent repairs have now been started and are in full progress.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Are not provisions for the persons living in the Nelliampat hies taken by head loads?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the tonnage of the produce of the Nelliampathies Hill Plantations—approximately please?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* At that time the produce was not taken down.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Is it not the season now for cardamom, coffee and tea?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The season is approaching.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Are we not already in the season?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We are just in the beginning of the season.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I say we are just in the middle of the season.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I do not think so. The season has just begun.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the elevation of the Nelliampathies ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The highest elevation is 5100 ft. at the Padagiri peak.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the approximate gradient of the road?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The ruling gradient is 1 in 20.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know whether there was any difficulty in working the system as regards taking up these repairs immediately?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The real difficulty was, on account of the heavy rains there were slips on the road, and if action had been taken immediately before the monsoon has stopped, there will be further slips and works once done will have to be redone. So it was necessary to wait till the severity of the monsoon was abated before we started the permanent works. Therefore till that time we did the temporary repairs. The Honorary Secretary of the Planters' Association, Mr. Arthurhall wrote on 17th July 1941 stating: "I took the opportunity yesterday of walking down the ghat as far as Gundoorghola Bridge and I was pleased to note the very considerable progress that had been made since your late visit". Therefore, he was satisfied with the temporary work that was done there. Of course as regards the permanent repairs which are being done now, it took some time for us to make the estimates.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* How is it that it took 6 months for the contract to be given ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Accurate estimates had to be prepared after the severity of the monsoon was over and after we were able to see what the damages were. As soon as the estimates were prepared, tenders were called for early in Kanni and contracts were given in Thulam.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Is there any difficulty in the working of the system of attending to repairs, where expeditious repairs are necessary, for example, when a road has broken down? If so, will the Government be pleased to say whether any rectification in the system is necessary?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I do not think there is any defect in the system. In cases where similar

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accidents occurred on account of cyclone in the planes, roads were put in proper condition within one week, even earlier than the Railways could restore their system. But in a completely hilly road like Nelliampathies where slips are likely to happen, it would be premature to start doing permanent works, as soon as the slips have occurred in the midst of the monsoon. Therefore, we had to wait till the severity of the monsoon was over for preparing accurate estimates.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Has the Chief Engineer power to attend immediately to repairs without waiting for Government sanction in cases of such calamities ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes, provided I report to the Government at once.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What about the request as regards the contract being given to three contractors? I find the work is given only to one contractor.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In view of the request from the Planters' Association to split the work into three sections and to give it to three contractors, we prepared estimates also in three sections. But when tenders were called for and they were received, I found that the present contractors Messrs. P.K. Syed Amain Sahib & Co., whom I recommended were the best suited to do the whole work together. The other contractors were not local men. They were mostly from Trichur and other places, far remote from the locality. This particular company had also control over the proper kind of labour. Because this P. K. Syed Amain Sahib comes from Pollachi or Coimbatore and the Boyyas there are the best men to do the work, I thought it was in the interests of the work itself that these works are given to those contractors.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* What is the total cost of the work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Rs. 15,000.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* For works costing Rs. 15,000 you take so much of time!

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We don't take much time.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Is the contractor a Cochinite?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Where does he belong to?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* He belongs to Pollachi.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* My point is why the work was not given to men belonging to the locality?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is a special kind of work, as I explained already. There is rock blasting, backing of revetment wall, etc. This could be done only by that section of the people in Nemmara and this man has got control over labour there. That is why I selected that contractor.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* From the answer it is seen that the Government is collecting double the rate of toll for the use of this 2 miles of road. What is the justification to collect Rs. 1½ for the use of 2 miles of the road?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I shall look into that. In my anxiety to look into the road, I forgot to look into the rate of the toll. *(Laughter).* I will look into this question and do the needful.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether the repair or construction of a road with a gradient of 1 in 20 will cost more than the repair or construction of a road in the plains?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It will cost more.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* No. It will cost less.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It will depend upon the materials used.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know what approximately is the income that is derived from this road under tolls? The Diwan Peishkar may be able to enlighten us on that.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Without notice it is not possible.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Have you not lost all the income from that source?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We have practically lost that.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* The rate of toll fixed for this road is very high.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are they (the planters) not getting enormous amounts as a result of the rise of price of produce?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Are you levying tolls calculated on the distance travelled?

Mr. President : That question does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* May I know the total amount of money that has been spent on this road from the time the road was originally laid up till now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I want notice.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Can I take that it amounts to lakhs?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It must be 2 or 3 lakhs.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is cattle responsible for the damage caused to this road? The last sub-division (v) refers to the Cattle Trespass Act. What has cattle to do with the damages to this road?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I just wanted to know the number of convictions.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* May I know the number of estate owners there?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The total extent is given there. Nearly 4905 acres. The area under plantation is 1484 acres.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Sir, May I take it that the area there is exhausted by a few rich estate owners?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief-Engineer):* It is a matter of opinion.

MACHAD-ALUR ROAD—EXTENSION TO MATTAM

131. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to mention.—

(*a*) whether the Chief Engineer has received a letter dated 28th August 1941 from the president of the public meeting held in St. Joseph's school, Allur, forwarding a copy of the resolution passed at the meeting, relating to his Department;

(*b*) what action has been taken with reference to the opening of the Machad—Alur Road up to Mattam contained in the resolution forwarded to him;

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